currently under implementation in the country including these states. These special programmes include Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Sampooma Grameen Rojgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Generation Programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, etc.

Reduction in interest rate on EPF

3768. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to reduce interest rate on EPF; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) the reasons for the reduction of the rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The rate of interest on EPF deposits for the year 2006-07 has not yet been recommended by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund to the Government.

Contribution of intellectual/skilled Labour to GDP

†3769. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

. Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of intellectual or skilled labour to the GDP has increased after adoption of globalised industrialization policy a decade ago;

(b) if so, Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) the percentage of skilled and unskilled labour in the country at present and whether any target has been fixed to enhance availability of skilled labour in the years to come; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The contribution

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of labour is measured in terms of compensation of employees paid in the form of wages and salary to Net Domestic Product (NDP) at the current prices. The contribution of labour to the Net Domestic Product at Current Prices increased from 33.8% for both skilied and unskilled labour during 1993-94 to 36.5% during 2004-05.

(c) As per 61 st Round of National Sample Survey, about 2% received formal vocational training and another 8 per cent reported to have received non-formal vocational training in the age group of 15—29 years.

(d) Approach paper to 11th Five Year Plan emphasizes the need to expand vocational training from the present capacity of mere 2 to 3 million to at least 15 million new entrants to the labour force.

Unemployed educated youths registered in employment offices

3770. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise break-up of unemployed educated youths registered in employment offices in States; and

(b) What are the steps taken by the Central Government to address the problem of unemployment among both the educated and uneducated youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Total number of educated job seekers including youth, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered with Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31-12-2005 was around 28 million. State-wise details are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) The Approach paper to The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million new work opportunities. This is for both educated/ skilled and unskilled unemployed including youth. In order to tackle the problem of unemployment among both educated and uneducated persons including youth, Government is attempting employment generation in the normal growth process of the economy as well as through special employment generation programmes. The special programmes include Swamajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grammeen Rojgar